

PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS

1900

Three Years of Liberal Administration

I

Hon. Mr. Marchand's Mission

In 1897, Hon. Mr. Marchand, leader of the Liberal party, was entrusted by the electorate with the mission of restoring the financial position of the province, establishing the equilibrium between the revenue and expenditure, putting an end to the increase of the public debt, placing our administrative system in proper order and stimulating the development of the natural resources of the country.

This mission was in great part accomplished and Hon. Mr. Marchand was on the point of seeing his exertions crowned with complete success, when death, probably occasioned by the extra work which he had imposed upon himself during three years, came prematurely to snatch him away forever from the affection of his friends, as well as from the unanimous confidence of the country.

The New Premier.

Hon. Mr. Parent, one of his colleagues and his principal assistant in the work of rehabilitation performed during those three years, was called to replace Mr. Marchand at the head of the Government.

Although still young, the new Prime Minister has already won for himself a reputation as a business man and as an administrator of remarkable prudence and ability. During the seven years that he has filled the office of Mayor of Quebec, he has transformed the city to such an extent that strangers who have not visited it for some years can hardly recognize it, so extraordinary is the era of progress upon which he has started it. The new city hall, the conversion of the civic debt, the street improvements, the Victoria park, the new fire stations, the electric tramway and a host of other similar improvements, all combine to attest his unquestionable administrative talent and all the more so that the whole has been achieved without increasing the rate of taxation, which is lower in Quebec than in any other city of the same importance.

It was he who resuscitated the great enterprise of the Quebec bridge and has assured its ultimate success; it was he who caused the necessary aid to be given to the Great Northern Railway Company to carry through their undertaking and, in addition to this, he has lent his assistance to several other undertakings of less magnitude, but of real importance. In fact, his help can always be relied upon where progress and advancement are concerned.

And while Mr. Parent was doing all this as Mayor of Quebec, he was also, as Minister, transforming the Department of Crown Lands and eliciting from the public domain an augmentation of revenue which enabled the Marchand Government to restore the financial position of the province, to put an end to deficits and to fill up the abyss dug by its predecessor.

To use an everyday expression Hon. Mr. Parent is a "hustler," a man of order and method, who keeps the complicated administrative machinery running with all the regularity of clockwork without seeming even to exert

himself, so to speak. Under his able direction and vigilant supervision, every thing goes straight as if by magic. During the seven years that he has been Mayor of Quebec, there has not been a single complaint or charge made against his administration, which has been at all times without reproach.

This brilliant administrative career, coupled with the esteem and the popularity with which he is honored by his colleagues of the Provincial deputation, clearly pointed him out to the choice of the Lieutenant-Governor as Hon. Mr. Marchand's successor.

The Parent Government's Policy.

The new Premier's programme is the same as Hon. Mr. Marchand's; his administration and his policy are the continuation of what the province has enjoyed in these respects since 1897.

Why the General Elections at Present.

To afford to the electorate an opportunity to pass judgment upon that administration and to clearly indicate the policy which they desire, Hon. Mr. Parent and his colleagues have deemed it proper to bring on the general elections, which will take place on the 30th November for the nomination of candidates and on the 7th December for the polling.

The dissolution of the Legislature before the expiration of its term, in May, 1902, is warranted by several reasons

Those who have followed the politics of our province know that, since 1867, the different Conservative Governments changed Prime Minister several times during the term of a Legislature without ever getting such changes ratified by the electors. In this way, Mr. Ouimet succeeded Mr. Chauveau, Mr. de Boucherville succeeded Mr. Ouimet, Mr. Mousseau succeeded Mr. Chapleau, Mr. Ross succeeded Mr. Mousseau.

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seau and more recently Mr. Taillon followed Mr. de Boucherville. The Liberals have always regarded these changes in the Premiership, without an appeal to the people for their ratification, as violations of our constitutional usages, as assaults upon the people's right to choose their rulers. Hon. Mr. Parent, who is a thorough and sincere Liberal, has wished to respect the traditions of his party, to apply the principles professed by the Liberals when they were in Opposition; and this is chiefly why he advised the Lieutenant-Governor to dissolve the Legislature and to call upon the people to pass upon the choice made of him as Prime Minister, as well as upon his colleagues in the new Administration.

There was also a motive of economy.

Six seats in the Legislative Assembly—those for St. John's, Chateauguay, St. Lawrence, Nicolet, Quebec-East and Lake St. John—had become vacant through the decease of Hon. Mr. Marchand, the elevation of Hon. Mr. Robidoux to the Bench, the appointment of Hon. Mr. Shehyn to the Senate and the resignations of Messrs. Bickerdike, Ball and Girard, who have been elected members of the House of Commons. There were therefore six by-elections to be held before the next session, all of which would have entailed expenses that would have to be re-incurred eighteen months hence. The Government has obviated all these by bringing on the general elections, which will fill all the seats for five years.

The interest of trade and business was also one of the motives which induced the Parent Government to come to this decision.

The approach of a general election has always the effect of somewhat unsettling and retarding business. The province has just gone through this phase of unsettlement and retardation in business owing to the Federal elections. Why prolong this abnormal situation for eighteen months more in view of the Provincial elections, instead of putting an end to it at once by holding these elections immediately? The country will have done with them for five years and business will at once resume its course. In fact, business men should feel thankful to the Parent Government for

assuring to them so long a period of rest from elections and politics.

The Work of Three Years

In order to enable the electors to pass an intelligent judgment upon the work of the past three years, we shall briefly review what has been done by the administration, in which Hon. Mr Parent has become the heir and leader, after being for upwards of three years its principal assistant.

II

Broken Promises—The Situation in 1897

It will be recalled that the De Boucherville Government ran the elections in 1892 with the promise to re-establish the equilibrium in the finances of the province, without imposing new taxes. When the elections were over, however, no attention was paid to this promise and, during the very first session, it caused a law to be passed imposing the famous taxes which took from the people in five years \$2,262,452.55 or an average of \$452,490.51 per annum. In proposing this law, Treasurer Hall declared that with this increase of revenue his Government could pay the debts of its predecessor without further loans, put an end to deficits and completely restore the equilibrium in the budget. He affirmed that the debt would not be increased and he also promised economy and retrenchment in the expenditure.

All these pledges were odiously broken.

Increased Expenditure—Diminished Revenue

During the five years of their administration, the Castors increased the expenses, allowed the receipts to diminish and piled up deficits to the amount of \$1,457,408.56. All this is established by the following table, extracted from the budget speech of Treasurer Atwater, delivered on the 9th December, 1896, page 58, for the first four years, and, for the fifth, from the budget speech delivered by Hon. Mr Marchand on the 14th December, 1898, page 31 :

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Expenses.</i>	<i>Receipts.</i>	<i>Deficits.</i>
1892-93.....	\$ 4,492,106.21	\$ 4,467,278.21	\$ 14,828.00
1893-94.....	4,550,629.50	4,320,427.22	230,202.28
1894-95.....	4,506,633.31	4,343,971.65	162,661.66
1895-96.....	4,515,263.52	4,359,594.91	55,678.31
1896-97.....	4,907,281.71	3,923,238.70	984,043.01
	<u>\$22,871,919.25</u>	<u>\$21,414,510.99</u>	<u>\$1,457,408.56</u>

The above mentioned receipts comprise, in addition to the ordinary revenue, the proceeds of the new taxes imposed in 1892 and which were as follows :

1892-93.....	\$ 493,591.75
1893-94.....	518,406.11
1894-95.....	487,398.45
1895-96.....	444,856.02
1896-97.....	318,200.22
Total for the five years.....	<u>\$2,262,452.55</u>
Yearly average	452,490.51

The average of the deficits was \$291,481.71 per annum. By adding this deficit to the average product of the

new taxes, it will be found that, without this raid upon the pockets of the taxpayers, the shortage in the ordinary operations of the Castor régime would have amounted to \$743,972.22, a year. The total of the deficits during the five years, \$1,457,408.56, added to that of the new taxes, \$2,262,452.55, forms for the whole period a shortage of \$3,719,861.11.

After swallowing up \$2,262,452.55 from the new taxes, the Government, begotten of the *coup d'état*, had piled up deficits to the amount of \$1,457,408.56. This was very far, indeed, from equalizing the budget.

Increase of the Debt.

The debt had increased in the same proportions.

From \$27,170,329.91 on the 30th June, 1892, the funded debt had mounted up to \$34,196,654.08 on the 30th June, 1897, making an increase of \$9,021,324.07 in the five years.

The net debt or the excess of the liabilities over the assets had risen from \$21,622,577.06 on the 30th June, 1892, to \$25,491,658.16 or an increase of \$3,869,081.10 in five years.

Increase of the Expenditure

In fine, from \$4,492,106.21 in 1893, the expenses had been run up to \$4,907,281.71 in 1897, which gives an increase of \$415,175.50.

Record of the Castor Administration.

Last session, Hon. Mr. Duffy summed up in the following table the record of the five years' administration of the Castors :

1. Increase of the net debt	\$ 3,869,081.10
2. Increase of the funded debt	9,021,884.07
3. Annual deficit (average)	291,481.71
4. Deficit of the five years	1,457,085.56
5. Annual average of new taxes	452,490.51
6. Receipts from new taxes during five years (1892-1897)	2,262,452.55
7. Total of deficits and new taxes under Con- servative regime	3,709,861.11

As will be seen, the Castor Government, begotten of the *coup d'état*, was a complete bankrupt to all its promises and so much so that, when the Liberals came to power, they were confronted with a largely increased expenditure, a materially decreased revenue and a deficit of \$984,048.01 or about a million in round figures.

When Hon. Mr. Marchand took charge of the Government on the 26th May, 1897, the expenses of the current year, deducting the railway subsidies paid and the reimbursements to the companies of their guarantee deposits, exceeded the revenue by \$741,242.10. To fill up this gap and cover the deficits of the preceding years, the Flynn Government had taken part of the proceeds of the loans which should have been exclusively applied to the payment of the railway subsidies, several of the appropriations voted were already exhausted, and, to meet the shortage, special warrants were issued to the extent of \$303,701.44, out of which \$291,300.76 were paid out.

Unforeseen Expenses

Further, by legislation passed during the closing weeks of the session, the Flynn Government had laid upon the Treasury the payment of heavy sums, for which no provision was made in the budget of expenses for that year. The expenses and the charges thus imposed by statutes passed after the voting of the appropriations, had added nearly \$200,000 to the expenses of the current year, as follows.

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The interest on the loan of 1897, to pay the 17½ cents per acre of railway subsidies, and the interest on the temporary loan necessitated by the deficit, amounted to over.....	\$ 60,000.00
The increase caused by the re-organization of the departments.....	7,700.00
The salaries of stenographers to courts.....	7,000.00
The annual contribution to elementary schools.....	50,000.00
The grants to exhibitions.....	18,000.00
The revision of the Code of Procedure.....	6,600.00
The grant to the Ursuline school at Roberval...	2,500.00

In addition, the following items were not included in the estimates, but had to be paid :

Premiums of insurance on Public Buildings this year,.....	19,050.00
Rents of houses at Rimouski and Montreal.....	2,000.00
Cost of sequestration, Baie des Chaleurs Railway.....	7,500.00
Protestant Hospital for Insane under 59 Vic. cap. 5.....	8,325.00
Cost of valises purchased for members.....	2,940.00
Election expenses.....	2,000.00

The amount to be expended for agriculture had been also increased to the extent of \$14,600.00 and there were \$8,000 to be paid for the Quebec and Montreal court houses and for iron bridges.

As will be seen, the Liberal Government found itself confronted with a veritable administrative chaos ; the debt had been increased, the expenses had been increased ; the deficits were increasing from year to year ; they had attained even a million, and, to crown all, the Flynn Government had materially reduced the sources of revenue by abolishing nearly all the taxes imposed in 1892, in order to prepare for the elections and to thus be in a position to state to the electors that it had abolished the taxes, always with the intention of re-imposing them when the elections were over.

In a masterly speech delivered in the Legislative Assembly on the 21st February last, Hon. Mr. Duffy summed up all this in the most striking fashion : "I desire—he said—to call the attention of the House to the fact that at the very outset of our administration, we found ourselves placed at a disadvantage by the legislation of our predecessors to the following extent :

" 1. By the abolition of certain taxes.....	\$ 272,720.04
" 2. By the reduction of the interest payable by the Canadian Pacific.....	32,214.00
" 3. By the increase of the expenditure for :	
" (a) The interest on the debt...	\$60,893.04
" (b) The increased grant for public instruction.....	50,000.00
" (c) The increase of the expense for the civil service resulting from the organization of a new department and from salaries in the others	\$22,000.00
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	\$49,142.05
Making in all.....	\$454,096.09

Such was the situation when the Liberals came into office on the 26th May, 1897. Matters were in an absolute state of chaos and the province was so financially embarrassed that it seemed almost impossible to extricate it.

III

Work of the Liberal Administration.

The task undertaken by the Liberal Government seemed to be beyond the bounds of feasibility ; but it was not beyond the courage and the patriotism of the men to whom

the people had entrusted it. The new Ministers set resolutely to work and on the 14th December 1897, Mr. Marchand, in his budget speech, described in the following words the work of reform and rehabilitation undertaken by his Government:

" I have some hesitation in rising for the purpose of showing to this House the financial position of our province. The situation, I regret to say, is not what it should be and in order to put it on a sound basis I shall be obliged to have recourse to extreme measures which I will not hesitate to adopt and for the carrying out of which I rely upon the good will and support of the members.

" For a long period—ever since Confederation—the people of this province and its governments have accustomed themselves to look upon its resources as inexhaustible. The consequence has been an era of prodigality during which the Legislature, with the view of encouraging improvements and local undertakings of all kinds, has profusely voted away the public moneys in subsidies. This policy has resulted in annual deficits and the accumulation of a public debt, the payment of the interest whereof already absorbs a considerable portion of our ordinary revenues.

" Without wishing to criticize the motives that inspired our public men in carrying out that policy which has greatly contributed, I admit, to the development of the public domain and of its natural resources, I consider that the time has come to suspend its course in the interest of our provincial autonomy and the maintenance of our local institutions. For that purpose it is urgently necessary to avoid for a certain time all expenses both on the capital account and on the revenue account, not immediately essential to our progress, in order that the equilibrium in our finances, which has too long been disturbed, may be re-established. Such is the thankless and ungrateful task that I formally pledge myself to accomplish with the members of this House, who also pledged themselves to it during the last electoral contest. It is upon the faith of that promise that the majority of this House obtained the confidence and support of the electors and it is for the purpose of carrying it out that the Liberal party is now in power. However difficult the task

may be, I will not flinch from the obligation of fulfilling it and I hope to succeed with the support of this House."

And he did succeed; the Liberal Government of 1897 put an end to the deficits, restored the equilibrium between revenue and expenditure, succeeded in obtaining a surplus of receipts, stopped the increase of the debt, re-established good order in our administrative system, vigorously pushed the development of the resources of the province, gave a powerful impetus to agriculture and colonization and contributed a good share to the prosperity which the country has enjoyed during the last three or four years.

The settlement of the boundary question was definitely achieved; that of the arbitration between Ontario, Quebec and the Dominion was vigorously pressed and to-day the outlook is most encouraging. The remarkable qualities which distinguish the new Premier, Hon. Mr. Parent, as an administrator and a business man, his activity and his invincible energy, his sound judgment, his experience and his business capacity, will soon complete the work so patriotically begun by Hon. Mr. Marchand.

AI

Revenue and Expenditure

During the three years of Liberal administration ended on the 30th June last, the ordinary revenue and expenditure, including extraordinary public works and buildings were as follows:

1897-98.....	\$4,176,139.63.....	\$4,415,370.38
1898-99.....	4,223,579.43.....	4,201,023.21
1899-1900.....	4,421,716.98.....	4,403,524.41

As will be seen, there was a surplus of \$22,556.22 for 1899 and one of \$18,192.57 for 1900.

Deficit of 1897-98 Explained.

This deficit was the result of the legislation of the Flynn Government and of the obligations which it had contracted over and above its estimates, as explained by Hon. Mr. Marchand in his budget speech of the 7th February, 1899. The following is a list of these payments over and above the estimated expenditure :

Increased interest on the public debt.....	\$ 66,555 50
Cost of trunks for members.....	2,872 15
Increase in amount of salaries through re-organization of departments	8,099 36
Additional contingencies due to such re-organization.....	5,200 00
Paid La Caisse d'Economie under order in council of 20th May 1897.....	7,679 98
Salaries of official stenographers	7,227 99
Public Instruction under act 60 Vic.....	50,000 00
Ursulines of Roberval under the act 60 Vic	2,498 17
Eastern Townships Association under the act 60 Vic.....	5,000 00
Montreal Exhibition	13,000 00
Richmond Agricultural Society under supplementary estimates confirming order in council of 14th November, 1896.....	2,000 00
Premiums of insurance on Public Buildings.....	12,432 12
Protestant Insane Asylum under 59 Vic., chap 5..	8,325 00
Revision of Code of Civil Procedure.....	6,652 33
Sequestration of Baie des Chaleurs Railway.....	7,282 33
Cost of Whelan arbitration.....	1,343 46
Claims for iron bridges.....	447 97
Transcribing registers at Montreal West under order in council of 20th May, 1897.....	4,116 00
Total	<u>\$210,732 42</u>

Deducting all these old engagements and these old debts contracted by the Flynn Government, the Marchand Government only remains responsible for an expenditure of \$4,204,687.96, which reduces to \$28,498.43 the deficit of that year. But this deficit was wiped out by the surpluses of the two following years, these forming a total of \$40,748.79, leaving on that period of three years a balance of surplus to the extent of \$12,250.46.

Hon. M. Marchand therefore carried out to the letter the promise to put an end to the era of deficits, which he gave to the electorate.

A Significant Contrast

Under the Castor administration, begotten of the *coup d'état*, the ordinary revenue fell off from \$4,391,770.40 in 1893 to \$3,874,803.18 in 1897, or to the extent of \$516,967.30. At the same time, the ordinary expenditure ran up from \$4,190,522.85 in 1893 to \$4,853,927.48 in 1897 or an increase of \$663,404.63.

As will be seen, the Castors were burning the candle at both ends.

Under the Liberal administration of Mr Marchand, the ordinary revenue increased from \$4,176,139.63 in 1898 to \$4,42,1716.98 in 1900, making an increase of \$245,577.35. At the same time, the ordinary expenditure was reduced from \$4,415,370.38 in 1898 to \$4,403,521.41 in 1900, making a decrease of \$11,845.97.

This comparison shows better that any thing else the difference between the two Governments ; the Castors were leading the province to ruin by increasing the expenditure and decreasing the revenue ; the Liberals have extricated the province from chaos and ruin by increasing the revenue and diminishing the expenditure.

Between these two styles of government, the choice is easy.

How the Liberals have Increased the Revenue.

The Castors had an easy way of increasing the revenue—by laying on taxes. When the revenue did not suffice to pay for their extravagances, they imposed fresh taxes. Mr. Marchand objected to resorting to this ready means for a Government, but ruinous for a people, of suppling the shortage in a budget; instead of increasing the taxes, it decreased them and only sought an increase of revenue in the development of the country's resources.

Reduction and Abolition of Taxes.

During the five years of the Castor regime, the hotel licenses, the taxes on commercial corporations, on the professions, on transfers of real estate, the manufacturers' and traders' licenses and the succession duties, produced \$6,152,029.71 or a yearly average of \$1,230,405.94.

During the three years of the Liberal Administration, these same taxes yielded only \$3,127,919.31 or a yearly average of \$1,042,637.77—a DECREASE of \$187,770.17.

The tax on real estate transfers which gave an average of \$196,822.87 a year to the Castor Government has been abolished and the \$2,472.71 received by the Marchand Government under this head are arrears due under the previous regime. The same may be said of the tax on the professions and the manufacturers' and traders' licenses, which have been partially abolished; the Marchand Government has only got from these sources of revenue the collection of the arrears—\$38,577.47 for manufacturers' licenses and a trifle of \$2,082.61 for the taxes on the professions or taxes on certain persons.

The hotel licenses, which yielded an average annual revenue of \$632,798.58 to the Castor Government, have

yielded under the Liberal Government only \$602,977.08, which shows a decrease of \$29,821.50 a year.

Crown Lands Revenue.

It was in the development of our public domain—the lands, forests and fisheries—that the Liberal Administration sought and found the necessary resources to fill up in the budget the void occasioned by the reduction and the abolition of most of the taxes imposed by the Castors, and to Hon. Mr. Parent, the head of that department, belongs in great part the merit and the honor of having thus effected the restoration of our financial position. Further we give the details of this work, which is the tangible proof of his administrative ability and of his worth as a business man.

The receipts of the department were as follows under one and the other regime :—

<i>Conservatives.</i>	<i>Liberals.</i>
1893 \$ 989,262.67	1898 \$ 1,087,042.52
1894 903,802.96	1899 1,043,245.67
1895 863,649.35	1900 1,399,371.74
1896 1,042,612.94	
1897 879,206.26	
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\$ 4,678,534.18	\$ 8,429,659.92
Average \$ 935,706.84	\$ 6,143,219.97

As will be seen, the revenue shows in favor of the Liberal Administration an INCREASE OF \$207,513.13 A YEAR, taking the average as the basis of comparison.

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Revenue from Mines

The Castors, who found it easier to resort to taxes, had neglected this source of revenue, as well as those arising from the lands, forests and fisheries. Hon. Mr. Turgeon, who controls this branch of the public service, has pushed the development of this resource and derived from it more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ times its yield under the previous regime, as will be seen by the following figures :

CONSERVATIVES		LIBERALS	
1893	\$1,675.00	1898	\$ 7,872.67
1894	1,361.00	1899	4,120.92
1895	2,382.57	1800	11,961.48
1896	2,697.35		
1897	687.00		
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	8,803.00		23,960.08
Average	1,760.60		7,866.69

By keeping on at this rate, the revenue arising from mines will before long form a respectable contribution to the budget of the province.

Revenue from Insane Asylums

The Castors had neglected like every thing else to collect the sums due to the Government for the maintenance of the insane in the asylums. Hon. Mr. Marchand gave his active attention to the work of getting in what was due to the Treasury in this respect and the result of each administration is shown in the following table :

1893	\$ 26,537.87	1898	\$ 65,572.48
1894	19,363.15	1899	46,872.37
1895	21,848.28	1900	79,713.87
1896	35,083.69		
1897	9,342.57		
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	\$112,175.56		\$192,258.62
Average..	22,435.11		64,086.21

The increase is nearly 3 to 1.

Revenue from Reformatory and Industrial Schools.

This is another source of revenue which the Castors neglected and upon which the Liberal Administration realized :

<i>Conservatives.</i>		<i>Liberals.</i>	
1893	\$ 77.64	1898	\$ 36,386.61
1894	2,289.06	1899	19,677.44
1895	5,688.51	1900	23,176.22
1896	12,366.76		
1897	923.72		
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	\$ 21,345.69		\$ 79,240.50
Average..	4,269.14		26,413.50

Revenue from Registration Stamps

The abolition of the tax on transfers of real estate and the revival of business materially increased the yield of this source of revenue under the Marchand Government, as shown by the following figures :

Conservatives.

1893	\$ 18,044.65
1894	18,006.05
1895	58,871.60
1896	61,338.51
1897	63,875.90

219,636.71

Average 48,927.34

The increase exceeds 54 per cent.

Liberals.

1898	\$ 66,432.95
1899	68,850.95
1900	68,003.49

203,278.39

67,759.46

Revenue from the Administration of Justice

Under this head, there has been an increase on the average of \$6,027.83 a year, as indicated by the following :

Conservatives.

1893	\$ 221,716.53
1894	246,308.42
1895	261,570.27
1896	256,727.75
1897	236,197.43

\$1,222,520.40

Average 244,504.08

Liberals.

1898	\$242,448.62
1899	262,417.15
1900	247,793.81

\$752,659.58

250,531.91

For the first four years, the public accounts include in the revenue from the administration of justice that from registration stamps. We have taken it out of the above table in order to put the comparison on a footing of equality.

Federal Subsidy

The product of this source of revenue has been increased to the extent of \$69,692.07 a year, as compared with the Castor Administration. Here are the details. :

<i>Conservatives</i>	<i>Liberals</i>
1893 \$1,278,952.80	1898 \$1,266,413.48
1894 1,278,376.11	1899 1,320,137.28
1895 1,277,799.42	1900 1,279,991.82
1896 1,241,798.59	
1897 1,257,183.70	
\$6,324,110.62	\$3,865,542.58
Average... \$1,224,822.12	\$1,288,514.19

will be observed, the increase amounted to \$63,692.07 per annum on the average.

Besides the subsidy fixed by law, the Federal Government pays to the province its share of the interest on certain funds, the division of which is in dispute between Quebec and Ontario and of which that Government is the depository. For reasons known to them, the Federal authorities had been holding back the payment of this interest. Mr. Marchand took up the matter and, thanks to the good will of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and of Hon. Mr. Fielding, succeeded in triumphing over the opposition of certain Federal employees and securing for the province the payment of the interest on a good part of what should come to us from these trust funds. The money was due to us, but the Marchand Government got it, when their predecessors could not get it paid by their friends at Ottawa.

These Increases Summed Up

By summing up the foregoing, it will be found that the average increase in these seven sources of revenue was as follows compared with the five years of Castor rule :—

Lands, forests and fisheries.....	\$207,513.13
Mines.....	6,226.09
Maintenance of the insane	41,651.10
Reformatories	22,144.36
Administration of justice.....	6,027.83
Registration stamps.....	23,832.12
Federal subsidy.....	63,692.07

\$371,086.70

It must be conceded that this is a splendid result.

The Revenue without the Taxes

Towards the close of their administration and for the purpose of preparing for the elections of 1897, the Castors abolished the taxes on real estate transfers and on the professions as well on the manufacturers' and traders' licenses, after having got the benefit of them during five years. This proportionally reduced the revenue and the resources at the disposal of the Liberal Government. It is obvious that to establish an equitable comparison between the Castor and Liberal regimes the proceeds of these taxes should be eliminated from the ordinary revenue. This has been done in the compilation of the following table, which shows the ordinary and regular revenue under the one and the other administration :—

<i>Conservatives.</i>		<i>Liberals.</i>	
1893	\$ 3,938,492.32	1898	\$ 4,142,856.90
1894	3,891,950.96	1899	4,215,268.26
1895	3,997,165.17	1900	4,420,178.09
1896	4,046,419.86		
1897	3,786,044.68		
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	\$ 19,640,072.99		\$12,778,903.25
Average	\$ 3,928,014.56		\$ 4,256,101.08

Without the taxes above mentioned and by means alone of the development of the provincial resources, the Liberals therefore increased the ordinary revenue to the average yearly extent of \$328,086.49.

Striking Contrast.

Under the Castor Administration, the revenue fell from \$3,938,492.32 in 1893 to \$3,786,044.64 in 1897 or to the extent of \$152,447.64 in four years.

Under the Liberal Administration, the revenue increased from \$4,142,856.90 in 1893 to \$4,420,178.09 in 1900 - an augmentation of \$277,321.15.

The result is still more striking when the revenue of the last year of the one or the other regime is contrasted.

Revenue in 1900, under Liberal rule	\$4,420,178.09
Revenue in 1897, under Conservative rule	3,736,044.68

LIBERAL INCREASE..... \$ 684,133 41

This is what the Liberal administration has accomplished without imposing a cent of new taxation, only by stimulating the development of our natural resources and by pushing the collection of what was due to it.

In the face of such results, is there any room for surmise that the commercial and business community should prize in the highest esteem the Liberal Government, which has so fine a result to its credit?

The Real Revenue.

Even in taking the ordinary revenue as given in the public accounts without deducting the new taxes which yielded \$2,262,452.55 to the Castors in five years, there is still an appreciable difference in favor of the Liberals. Here are the figures from the public accounts:

<i>Conservatives.</i>		<i>Liberals.</i>	
1893	\$ 4,391,779.48	1888	\$ 4,176,139.68
1894	4,260,533.61	1899	4,223,579.43
1895	4,322,028.12	1900	4,421,716.98
1896	4,327,910.55		
1897	3,874,803.18		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$21,177,045.94		12,821,436.04
Average...	4,235,409.19		4,273,478.68

There is therefore in favor of the Liberals an average yearly increase of \$22,069.49, even after the abolition of

most of the taxes which yielded to their predecessors \$2,202,452.55 in five years.

A Crushing Contrast.

Under the Castor regime and with the advantage of their odious taxes, the revenue fell off year after year or from \$4,391,770.48 in 1893 to \$3,874,803.18 in 1897, which gives a shortage of \$516,967.80 in five years.

Under Liberal rule, after the abolition of the taxes imposed by the Castors and without the large contribution from the proceeds of those taxes, the revenue increased from \$4,176,139.63 in 1898 to \$4,421,716.98 in 1900, an augmentation of \$245,577.35. With the taxes, of which the Castors got the benefit, the augmentation would have reached three quarters of a million.

The following table renders the contrast still more striking:

Revenue for 1900, the last year of Liberal Administration.....	\$4,421,716.98
Revenue for 1897, the last year of Conservative Administration	3,874,803.18

Difference in favor of the Liberals..... \$ 546,913.80

And this was achieved after the abolition of the taxes, without imposing a cent of new taxation, by the development of the resources of the province and the care, activity and intelligence displayed by the Liberals in the management of the country's affairs.

Who Were Guilty of Inactivity?

With that effrontery which so ill-becomes them and that injustice towards their adversaries which is so characteristic of them, the press and speakers in the Castor interest have accused the Marchand Administration of inactivity. The

facts above established show what value should be placed upon such charges. If that Administration, which, by work as persevering as it was energetic, succeeded in increasing the revenue to the extent of \$546,913.80 in three years—if that Administration deserves to be taxed with inactivity, what should be thought of that of the Castors, who, with the addition of their famous taxes, let the revenue decrease to the extent of \$516,694.80 in five years? The public domain was then under their control as it is now under Liberal rule, with its forests and its water-powers. Why did not the Castors draw from it the increase that Mr. Parent did? Why did not the Castors push the collection of the revenue due to the province? Why did they not force their Ottawa friends to pay us the interest on the trust funds? They could have done all this just as well as the Liberals did it. But they did not do it, and why?

There is only one answer possible to this query: because the Castors were too indolent, too careless or too incompetent. And yet it is these people who have the audacity to prate about inactivity.

Reduction of Taxes.

A comparison of the figures in the public accounts establishes that the Liberal Government under Mr. Marchand reduced to the extent of \$187,766.84 a year the direct taxes, including hotel licenses. This comparison is shown by the following table, giving year by year the revenue derived from each source:

<i>Conservatives.</i>		<i>Liberals.</i>	
1893	\$ 1,305,275.36	1898	\$ 1,006,094.18
1894	1,297,312.95	1899	1,062,680.50
1895	1,254,073.89	1900	1,039,142.63
1896	1,256,587.34		
1897	1,088,780.67		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$6,152,029.71		\$3,127,917.31
Average	\$1,280,405.94		\$1,042,639.10

Why should the tax-payers be tempted to revert to the regime of the Conservatives, who stripped them of \$187,766.84 a year more in the shape of direct taxes than the Liberals did ? Before casting their votes, let them thoroughly grasp this little table :

Average of direct taxes paid under the	
Conservative regime.....	\$1,280,405.94
Average of direct taxes paid under the Liberal	
regime	1,042,689.10

DECREASE UNDER LIBERAL REGIME.....	\$187,766.84
------------------------------------	--------------

We commend this table to the special attention of the taxpayers in the cities and towns, upon whom the incidence of these taxes falls heaviest.

Expenses—Their Reduction.

The ordinary expenses under the one and the other regime are set forth in the following table :

<i>Conservatives</i>		<i>Liberals</i>	
1893	\$4,190,522.85	1898	\$4,415,360.38
1894	4,267,946.07	1899	4,201,023.21
1895	4,195,727.44	1900	4,403,524.41
1896	4,098,707.00		
1897	4,853,927.48		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$21,607,830.84		\$13,019,918.00
Average....	4,321,466.17		4,369,972.66

Progress was in the inverse sense under the one and the other regime—increase under the Castors, decrease under the Liberals.

From \$4,190,522.85 in 1893, the Castors increased the ordinary expenditure to \$4,853,927.48 in 1897, making an augmentation of \$663,404.63 in four years or at the average yearly rate of \$165,851.16.

on \$4,415,370.38 in 1898, the Liberals reduced the ordinary expenditure to \$4,403,524.41 in 1900, making a decrease of \$11,845.97.

Why should the electors set aside the Liberal administration, which has decreased the expenditure, in order to replace it by the Castors, who increased that expenditure by \$663,404.63 or at the rate of \$165,851.16 per annum.

Decrease of Controllable Expenses.

Apart from the fact that by its nature the expense for the service of the public debt is uncontrollable, the Marchand Government cannot be held responsible for the increase of that expense, because, as will be shown further on, it diminished, instead of increasing it. To draw a fair and equitable comparison of the ordinary and controllable expenditure under both regimes, the payments for the service of the debt should be struck off and then we get the following figures :—

<i>Conservatives.</i>		<i>Liberals.</i>	
1893	\$ 2,745,491.51	1898	\$2,824,193.35
1894	2,830,013.40	1899	2,642,700.18
1895	2,609,066.82	1890	2,865,645.21
1896	2,602,277.01		
1897	3,303,053.32		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$14,089,902.06		\$8,332,358.73
Average	2,817,980.41		2,777,452.91

That is to say, that, under Liberal rule, the controllable expenses showed an average of \$40,521.50 a year less than under the previous regime. A comparison between the last year of Conservative and the last year of Liberal rule shows a decrease of \$437,408.11 in favor of the latter.

In the face of such facts, it must be granted that the Liberals have kept their promises to the letter that they would not increase the expenses.

Expenditure for Public Instruction

This decrease did not affect in any way, too, the efficiency of the public service, in spite even of an increase of \$35,437.23 in the expenditure for public instruction. Here is a list of the payments under this head :

<i>Conservatives.</i>		<i>Liberals.</i>	
1893	\$ 371,960 00	1898	\$ 418,760 00
1894	369,260 00	1899	375,143 28
1895	371,260 00	1900	438,758 37
1896	370,260 00		
1897	394,260 00		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$1,877,000 00		\$1,232,661 65
Average	\$375,400 00		\$410,887 23

Who will blame the Liberals for having spent an average of \$35,487.23 a year more than their predecessors for popular education ?

Expenditure for Agriculture

This expenditure directly benefits the mass of the population, as it is upon the progress of agriculture that depends the general prosperity of the province. This is why the Liberal Administration, which cut off all the useless or less important expenses, did not hesitate to spend more than their predecessors to stimulate the improvement of agriculture and agricultural production. The following table will show the expenditure under both regimes :

<i>Conservatives.</i>		<i>Liberals.</i>	
1893	\$115,478.17	1898	\$197,226.97
1894	115,418.00	1899	175,418.26
1895	200,330.66	1900	193,759.97
1896	166,464.09		
1897	230,795.75		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Average	\$872,165.47		\$566,405.20
	\$174,433.13		\$188,801.73

There is an increase of \$14,368.60 in favor of the Liberals. We shall see further on that the reforms wrought by Hon. Mr. Dechene in the use and distribution of the agricultural grants almost doubled their value.

Expenditure for Colonization

Like agriculture, colonization is a work of vital importance, upon which depend the advancement of the province and its influence in the Confederation. Mr. Marchand's patriotic administration made it a duty to push on this great work and devoted to it an average of \$35,957.13 more a year than their predecessors.

<i>Conservatives</i>		<i>Liberals</i>	
1893	\$81,100.00	1898	\$106,000.00
1894	79,077.65	1899	136,243.00
1895	85,000.00	1900	184,845.00
1886	116,100.00		
1897	169,900.00		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Average....	\$532,177.65		\$427,088.60
	\$106,435.53		\$142,362.66

As will be seen, the Liberals vigorously pushed on the national work of colonization and expended for that purpose a yearly average of \$35,927.13 more than the previous Government.

An Interesting Summary

On summing up the foregoing data, it will be found that for education, agriculture and colonization, the Marchand Liberal Government expended on an average \$85,782.96 more annually than the Conservative Governments of Messrs De Boucherville and Taillon. Here is the summing up, taking under each head of expenditure the yearly average for each period :

	<i>Conservatives</i>	<i>Liberals</i>
Public Instruction....	\$375,400.00	\$416,887.23
Agriculture	174,433.13	188,801.73
Colonization.....	106,485.53	142,362.66
	<hr/> \$656,268.66	<hr/> \$742,051.62

Under these three heads, there is an increase of \$85,782.96, that is to say, that, for these purposes of first importance, for these expenses which directly benefit the people, the Liberal administration of Mr. Marchand paid out on an average \$85,782.96 more a year than the previous Conservative administration. It will thus be seen, that, while practising economy wherever possible, the Liberals made it their duty to increase the useful expenditures that were profitable to the people and essential to the advancement of the country.

Public Works and Buildings.

Hon. Mr. Duffy, who had charge of this department down to the formation of the Parent Government, wrought wonders of economy, as will be seen from the following table of the expenditure under both regimes :

	<i>Conservatives.</i>		<i>Liberals.</i>
1893	\$ 342,792.98	1898	\$178,167.43
1894	491,992.10	1899	95,028.09
1895	262,756.33	1900	97,209.15
1896	156,029.98		
1897	342,816.04		
	<hr/> \$1,596,188.43		<hr/> \$370,404.67
Average	319,237.63		123,468.22

There is a decrease of \$195,769.46 or of nearly \$600,000 in the three years. A comparison between the last year of the Conservative and the last year of the Liberal regime shows a diminution of \$245,406.89 or nearly 300 per cent.

If this be not economy and retrenchment, it would be interesting to know what is meant by those words?

V

Public Debt.

On the 30th June, 1897 (Budget Speech delivered by Hon. Mr. Marchand on the 14th December, 1897) the debt of the province stood as follows :

Funded debt.....	\$34,196,634.08	
Floating "	8,147,656.73	
		27,344,310.81
Assets.....		1,852,652.65
Net debt.....		\$25,491,658.16

On the 30th June, 1900, according to the statement published in the *Quebec Official Gazette*, the debt stood as follows :

Funded debt.....	\$35,072,037.43	
Floating "	1,048,366.05	
		\$36,120,393.48
Assets.....		10,049,646.38
Net debt.....		\$26,070,747.10

According to this table, the increase would appear to be \$579,088.94.

But, in reality, instead of decreasing it, the Marchand Government reduced the debt.

From \$34,196,634.08 on the 30th June, 1897, the total of

the funded debt rose to \$35,072,027.43 on the 30th June, 1900, making an increase of \$875,373.35.

Whence came the increase? From permanent loans effected by the Marchand Government? No, because that Government never contracted a cent's worth of indebtedness in the way of permanent loans. It arises from the conversion of the funded debt effected in virtue of the Act 60 Vict. chap. 21 passed by the Flynn Government and under and by virtue of a contract made by that Government and approved by order-in-council of the 17th April 1897, with the Bank of Montreal. That contract expired on the 1st May, 1899. In virtue of this transaction, there was issued up to the 30th June 1899, inscribed stock, bearing 3 per cent interest, to the extent of \$9,048,725.03, to redeem or convert \$7,333,297.31 of old bonds, bearing a higher rate of interest, which added \$1,715,427.42 to the figure of the funded debt. If this increase was reduced to \$875,373.35 on the 30th June last, it was clearly because the Marchand Administration, instead of increasing the public debt, took up \$840,054.87, of the old bonds.

By how much did Mr Marchand increase the net debt to take up or extinguish these \$840,054.37 of old indebtedness?

By \$579,088.94, as above shown. The balance of \$296,284.41 was extinguished out of the ordinary revenue, that is to say, that, instead of increasing the debt, Mr. Marchand reduced to the extent of \$296,284.41 the debt created by his predecessors.

He therefore kept to the letter his promise to not increase the debt.

The Inverse of its Predecessors

The Castors had done just the contrary. From \$21,622,577.06 on the 30th June 1892, they had increased the net debt to \$25,491,658.16 on the 30th June 1897, or an augmentation of \$3,869,081.10 in five years at the rate of \$773,816.22 per annum.

Reduction of the Floating Debt

When the Liberals came to power, on the 30th June, 1897, the floating debt amounted to \$3,147,656.78. On the 30th June last, after three years of Liberal management, the floating debt had been reduced to \$1,048,366.05, making a diminution of \$2,099,290.68.

The following table will show some of these diminutions:

Deposits and trust funds.....	\$512,039.47	\$348,366.00
Railway guarantee deposits...	370,174.35	Nothing
Railway subsidies.....	1,121,967.08	792,966.45
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$2,004,180.90	\$1,081,332.50

The railway guarantee deposits have been repaid to the last cent and completely wiped off the Treasury books. The railway subsidies have been decreased by \$389,000.53 and the trust funds by \$163,673.42.

Is not this putting matters in good order?

Why therefore should the electorate withdraw their confidence from an administration which has done its duty so well?

Recapitulation

Last session, replying to ex-Treasurer Atwater, Hon. Mr. Duffy thoroughly summed up the work of rehabilitation and financial restoration accomplished by the Liberal Government since 1897.

"To sum up, he said, we have a right to be proud of what we have done in two years.

- 1—We have put an end to deficits;
- 2—We have a substantial surplus of \$33,655.33;
- 3—During the last fiscal year, we have reduced the public debt to the extent of \$120,241.96;

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4—We have imposed no new taxes or burthens on the people.

5—We have managed the affairs of the province honestly, efficiently and economically.

Hon. Mr. Duffy might have added that the Liberal Administration which we have had since 1897 has done more for education and colonization than any of its predecessors.

VI

Work of the Different Departments

Now, let us examine a little the manner in which each member of the administration has conducted his department.

Crown Lands Department

The management of this department by Hon. Mr. Parent has been as successful and brilliant as useful to the country. Even the most enthusiastic could never have dreamed of so extraordinary a development of the resources of our public domain. Under the able and vigorous impulse given to it by the Prime Minister, the revenue has increased, the value of our timber limits has doubled, the forest industry and especially that of pulp has made marvellous strides; our water powers have been turned to the account of great industries, the revenue from our fisheries has doubled, the wealth of our forests and the force of our hydraulic powers have been brought to the notice of home and foreign capitalists, who are seeking them to convert them into the factors of an industry that, before ten years, will have assumed proportions, of which it is scarcely possible to form an idea at present.

Woods and Forests.—The revenue arising from this source has been increased by an average of \$128,058.29 a year as compared with what it yielded during the five previous years. Here are the figures which establish this increase :—

<i>Conservatives</i>		<i>Liberals</i>	
1893	\$888,722.41	1898	\$ 911,088.30
1894	823,906.92	1899	894,289.48
1895	773,355.56	1900	1,112,529.52
1896	951,098.92		
1897	782,303.53		
<hr/>		<hr/>	
	\$4,218,387.35		\$2,917,907.30
Average	843,677.47		972,635.76
Revenue under Liberal administration		\$972,635.76	
" " Conservative "		843,677.47	
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Increase under Mr. Parent.		\$128,958.19	

It will not be amiss to note that Hon. Mr. Parent effected this increase notwithstanding the depression in the forest industry occasioned since 1896 by the Dingley tariff. The increased revenue above indicated is due to the more efficient supervision of lumbering operations and to the energy and activity manifested by Hon. Mr. Parent in the collection of the timber dues.

Sales of Limits.—During the five years embraced between the 30th June, 1892, and the 30th June, 1897, Hon. Mr. Parent's predecessors sold 3,805½ square miles of timber limits, yielding in bonuses \$132,117.85 or an average of \$34.72 per square mile. From the 30th June, 1897, to the 30th June, 1900, Hon. Mr. Parent sold 8052 square miles, which brought in \$538,929.77 or an average of \$66.94 per square mile, nearly double the price obtained by his predecessors. The following table sums up these sales under both regimes :

<i>Date of Sale</i>	<i>Area Sold</i>		<i>Product</i>	<i>Price per mile</i>
15th December. 1892	2201 $\frac{1}{2}$	miles	\$31,436.95	\$ 14.28
14th June. 1894	154	"	1,099.45	7.17
26th February. 1895	805 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	9,233.80	11.46
7th November 1895	173 $\frac{9}{10}$	"	7,434.83	42.76
18th March... 1896	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	2,311.67	143.38
24th March..... 1896	9	"	4,104.00	456.00
28th May 1896	277 $\frac{17}{20}$	"	69,494.50	250.11
26th January... 1897	167 $\frac{41}{60}$	"	3,003.25	33.87
	<hr/> 3805 $\frac{1}{2}$ <hr/>	"	<hr/> \$132,117.85 <hr/>	<hr/> \$34.72 <hr/>
22nd March .. 1898	1215 $\frac{79}{120}$	"	\$ 80,610.48	\$24.77
26th October. 1898	1933 $\frac{41}{60}$	"	129,171.92	66.80
30th May 1900	3221 $\frac{7}{450}$	"	246,937.70	76.66
26th June.... 1900	1682 $\frac{11}{24}$	"	132,209.67	78.60
	<hr/> 8502 <hr/>		<hr/> \$538,929.77 <hr/>	<hr/> \$66.93 <hr/>

At the average price realized at the sales made by Messrs. Flynn and Nantel—\$34.72 per mile—those sold by Mr. Parent would have yielded only \$279,565.44 or \$250,346.33 less than they actually returned.

It will be observed that the greater part of the limits sold by Hon. Mr. Parent is situated in very remote regions—in the Upper St. Maurice, to the north of Lake St. John below the Saguenay and in the Gaspé district, territories until lately regarded as worthless from the lumbering point of view. It was for these forests hitherto regarded as a negligible quantity by his predecessors that Hon. Mr. Parent obtained a bonus of \$66.93 per mile on the average, when at the famous sale of 1868, comprising 5,664 square miles of the most richly wooded lands of the Ottawa and the St. Maurice, only an average of \$12.84 per mile could be secured.

Besides the product realized from the bonuses, the

ground rent of \$3.00 a mile adds to the revenue of the province a fixed and sure receipt of \$25,506 a year, representing at 4 per cent capital of about \$625,000.

How did Hon. Mr. Parent manage to get this rise in price?

By making known the resources and advantages of the regions in which these limits are situated and by giving a powerful impulse to the pulp industry. Here is what he said on this head in his last report to the Lieutenant-Governor:

"This increase is due, in a great measure at least, to the demand created by manufacturers of paper pulp or wood intended for that purpose. Nevertheless everything leads to the belief that this increased value is far from having attained its extreme limit. The growing importance assumed from day to day by the industry I have just mentioned attracts and will continue to attract more and more to our province foreign capital placed at the disposal of manufacturers desirous of making use to their greater advantage of our forest riches within the immediate vicinity of their place of exploitation. We should therefore aid as much as possible this movement which is destined, unless we place obstacles in its way, to provide remunerative labor for our population in nearly every part of the country by the direct or indirect development of our forest, mineral and agricultural resources. To attain this end the most simple means and that which at first occurs to one's mind consists in imposing an exceptional duty on the production of the raw material destined to supply foreign manufactories."

Since the date of that report, Mr. Parent has solved the question by imposing an additional or differential tax of \$1.50 per cord of pulpwood intended for exportation and to be manufactured outside of the province. This intelligent and patriotic measure has given an extraordinary impetus to the pulp industry; numerous pulp mills are springing up on the St. Maurice and at Lake St. John and in a few years this industry will be one of the most important in the province, indeed, in Canada. English, American and even

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Swedish capitalists are on the look-out for suitable sites for the establishment of immense factories, in addition to the Belgian company, who are installing themselves at Shawinigan and taking out this winter a large quantity of logs.

The new Premier is practically the founder of the great pulp industry in our province.

Water Powers.—This is another resource which Hon. Mr Parent has drawn forth from the latent state in order that it may contribute to the restoration of our finances and to the development of our manufacturing industry. Since he has had the management of the Crown Lands Department, he has sold thirteen, which have returned to the Treasury \$111,210 as detailed in the following table :

WATER POWERS.	PURCHASERS,	PRICE AND DATE OF SALE.
Gatineau River :		
Pangan and Rock Island Falls.....	Hanson, Bros.....	Price : \$5,550. (2 Nov. 1877).
Chateauguay River :		
Hydraulic power between island No. 275 God- manchester and lot 350 of the same town- ship.....	Malcolm Mc- Naughton, De- witville.....	Price : \$320.00. (18 Nov. 1900).
St. Maurice :		
Water Power of the Grès (Fief St-Etienne)....	Warren Curtis....	Price : \$2,500. (9 June 1899).
Ottawa River :		
Chats rapids and islands No. 2 and 3.....	Upper Ottawa Im- provement Co.	Price : \$6,000. (9 June 1899)

Part of the Chats Rapids. Pontiac Gold Mining Co..... Price : \$20,00.
(29 June 1899).

Conditions : Development of the water power within 5 years of date of sale.

Saguenay River :
Between Caron's falls and the river Shipshaw..... Thos. L. Wilson.. Price : \$3,000.
(20 Dec. 1899).

Conditions : Improvements to the amount of \$3,000,000 in 4 years, with a penalty of \$7,000 if works not executed within stipulated delay.

Saguenay River :
Hydraulic power of the Grand Discharge from Caron's Falls to the division line between the townships of Taché and Delisle..... B. A. Scott..... Price : \$6,000.
(22 June 1900)

Conditions : \$1,000,000 to be expended in developing the water power between this and 3 years. In default, a penalty of \$6,000.

Grand Discharge from Lake St. John to division line between townships of Taché and Delisle..... L. T. Haggin..... Price : \$9,000.
(22 June 1900.)

Conditions : \$500,000 to be spent in developing the water power in 4 years from date. Penalty, \$9000 if this condition unfulfilled.

: \$20,00.
9 June 1899).
water power
ce of sale.

Metabetchouan River :
Rapids facing lots Nos.
21, 22, 23, 24 of the
west range Metabet-
chouan.J. B. Renaud & Co. Price : \$3,00
(18 March 1900)

: \$3,000.
20 Dec. 1899).
amount of
s, with a pe-
works not ex-
lated delay.

Lake St. John :
Falls of the Little Peri-
bonka facing lots 21
and 22 of range 2 of
Dolbeau.....P. A. Potvin.....Price : \$150.00
(29 March 1900)

River Chicoutimi :
FallsChicoutimi Electric
Light Company....Price : \$1,000.
(May 1897).

Shawenegan Falls, with
islands.....David Russell &
John Joyce.....Price : \$50.00
(9th Oct., 1897)

e : \$6,000.
(22 June 1900)

ended in deve-
power between
In default, a

Conditions : \$100,000 to be spent in 18 months
from sale for the developmen
of the water power, \$2,000.00
in 30 months and \$2,000.00
more 18 months after the expira-
tion of the 30 months. In default
sale to become null. Penalty of
\$10,000 paid on 20th April, 1897,
for extension of delay.

price : \$9,000.
(22 June 1900.)

Grand'Mère Falls on the
St-Maurice.....The Laurentides
Pulp Company....Price : \$4,500.
(21st Jan., 1900)

in developing
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0000 if this con-

The receipt from these sales, large as it is, is insignificant
when compared with the obligations imposed upon the pur-

chasers to lay out fixed sums within a prescribed delay in order to bring these water powers into working order. These sums form a total of \$5,900,000 or \$6,000,000 in round figures.

What do \$6,000,000 devoted to the creation of industrial establishments represent? The Grand'Mere mills, around which a little town has sprung up in five or six years, did not cost two millions and a half. The four millions which the Shawinigan company must expend six miles lower down will give birth to a town twice as large and before three or four years the wages of the workmen employed in these two places will be about \$5,000 a day or \$1,500,000 a year. The establishments organized on the other water powers sold since 1897 will call for as much, so that the effect of Hon. Mr Parent's policy of progress and advancement will be to secure for the working class the opportunity to earn three or four millions in wages annually. And this is only a beginning in the great work undertaken by the Prime Minister.

How can the workmen vote against the candidates of a Government, whose leader labors with so much intelligence and energy for their welfare?

Fisheries—This is another source of revenue to which Mr. Parent has imparted an extraordinary development and the yield of which has more than doubled in three years, as the following figures will show

<i>Conservatives.</i>		<i>Liberals.</i>	
1898	\$ 17,657.31	1898	\$ 35,152.90
1894	19,089.01	1894	40,943.67
1895	20,364.18	1900	49,222.24
1896	20,823.03		
1897	24,574.80		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$102,506.35		\$125,418.81
Average	20,511.67		41,856.27.

Here is an increase of \$21,304.60 or upwards of 105 per cent.

Mr. Parent has left no stone unturned to draw the attention of Canadian and foreign sportsmen to the superiority of our rivers and lakes for angling purposes and of our forests for large game. With this object his department took an active part last year in the sportsmen's shows at Boston and New York. The money annually left in the province by strangers who visit us to hunt and fish amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars, over and above what they pay to the Government.

Public Lands.—From the 30th June, 1892, to the 30th June, 1897, there were sold by location ticket 782,497 acres of land or an average of 156,499 acres a year. From the 30th June, 1897, to the 30th June, 1900, there were sold 502,160 acres, a yearly average of 167,386 acres or 10,837 acres more than under the Conservative regime. The free grants amounted to 145,880 acres or 29,179 acres a year during the first period and 31,680 acres during the other, a yearly average of 10,560 acres or a decrease of 18,616 acres. During the first period, 2,620 letters-patent were issued, covering an area of 294,975 acres or an average of 524 letters-patent and 58,995 acres yearly. Under the Liberal Administration, 2,075 letters-patent have been issued, covering 231,383 acres, making an average of 692 letters-patent and 77,127 acres a year. There is therefore an increase of 168 in the number of letters-patent and of 18,132 in the number of acres patented.

The following were the receipts from the land sales :—

1893	\$ 46,595.22	1898	\$ 64,994.99
1894	35,321.48	1899	73,827.57
1895	38,532.61	1900	64,278.76
1896	38,552.64		
1897	53,295.40		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$212,297.35		\$203,101.32
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Average	\$ 42,459.47		\$ 67,700.44

Increase under Hon. Mr. Parent's administration, \$25,240.97 a year on the average or more than 59 per cent.

Jesuits Estates, Public Domain. — The diligence and energy displayed in the collection of the arrears has nearly doubled the revenue arising from this source, as will be seen by the following figures :

1893	\$26,557.02	1868	\$69,457.32
1894	16,356.57	1899	28,462.99
1895	16,142.64	1900	66,225.79
1896	25,247.41		
1897	11,241.42		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Average	\$ 95,545.06		\$ 163,547.10
	\$ 19,109.01		\$ 54,515.70

The increase is \$35,406.69 a year or nearly 200 per cent. As for the expenses, Hon. Mr. Parent has reduced all that were susceptible of reduction, without impairing the efficiency of the service.

Department of Agriculture

We have seen elsewhere that the Liberals increased the expenditure for agriculture by \$14,368.60 a year on the average. Under the previous regime, the expenditure for agriculture had been a regular administration orgie ; the money intended for the farmers was spent upon pets and favorites and these practices had been so scandalous that the people, with their characteristic good sense, had designated this brigandage under the name of "agricultural machine." Hon. Mr. Dechêne put an end to all this and to-day the money voted for the farmers goes to the farmers.

Cheese and Butter Industry.

We are all agreed in the statement that the chief source of revenue lies in the manufacture of butter and cheese.

Of course, the Government has no intention of monopolizing the honor of having raised this industry to its present pitch of prosperity.

There was evidently a screw loose somewhere. The cause had to be sought out and remedied and it was here that the Government's action came in. It was ascertained, especially in the case of our cheese, that it was cured under defective conditions which rendered its sale almost impossible.

Hon. Mr. Dechene, after a searching study of the question, resolved to come to the aid of the proprietors of the cheese factories, who either had no curing rooms or who had inadequate ones and, in a bulletin which he caused to be published and widely circulated throughout the entire province, he set forth the advantageous terms on which the manufacturer could obtain a grant from the Government.

Contribution of the Province of Quebec

The grant which the Hon. Commissioner of Agriculture decided to give amounted as follows :

For a curing room of 400 to 700 square feet of floor surface, \$100.00.

This grant of \$100.00 not to extend to factories already in existence, nor to new factories built since the issuing of the bulletin, whose curing rooms had not at least 70 square feet of floor surface.

For a curing room of 700 to 1000 square feet of floor surface, \$150.00.

This policy, inaugurated during the year 1899, was not slow in bearing fruit, for, within hardly 15 months, upwards of 150 proprietors of cheeseries have profited by the Government grant.

The Hon. Commissioner of Agriculture further instructed a specialist to put himself at the disposal of the public to supply the necessary information. This improvement in the conditions of our dairy industry was so well appreciated as soon as announced that the Government received from all parts, even from abroad, proofs of this satisfaction. The limits of this pamphlet do not permit of their reproduction, but we may cite the following :

During the Convention of the Dairymen's Association in 1898, Mr. J. D. Guay made the following statement :—

"I desire, in the name of all those interested in dairying, to thank the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa, and the Hon. the Commissioner of Agriculture at Quebec, for the speeches they have been good enough to address to us. To attend this Convention, in spite of their occupations, was already much ; but for Mr. Fisher to prepare so important an address, and for Mr. Déchène to come hither and, profiting by the opportunity, to announce to us the good news concerning the grant he proposes to make to factories for curing-rooms ; this was more than we had any right to expect. So I wish to offer them our thanks in a most special manner.

"Mr. Déchène told us that he wants the Association to point out to him under what conditions this grant should be made that the best results may be derived from it. This is a compliment we highly appreciate. I see that, even if Mr. Déchène is not a farmer, he is by no means ignorant of the needs of the dairyman, and he thoroughly understands that, far from the small cheeseries being deserving of encouragement, the sooner they are abolished the better. He by no means intends that this grant shall serve to keep the small factories going, for they are dying of inanition, and that is the reason why he seeks to know, from those who make dairying their special business, the best way in which to expend the grant. I therefore thank Mr. Déchène in an especial manner for this compliment, and for the service he is rendering to the dairy industry." (Applause.)

Mr. J. Girard, Conservative member for Lake St-John, said :

"The Ministers who have addressed us show that they

are well inclined to the farmer class. The Commissioner of this province especially, made you a proposal, for which I am glad to offer him my thanks. It is the first time that a Government has troubled itself about curing rooms for cheese, and in assisting us to overcome our difficulties in this branch of the manufacture, he is certainly doing us great service."

We might also in the connection recall what Mr. Girard, of Lake St John, said on the floor of the House, when the budget was under consideration and when he remarked:

"I am not going to see this appropriation put at the disposal of Hon. Mr. Dechène, Commissioner of Agriculture, as I know that all the moneys so placed thus far have been well employed by him in the interest of the farming class."

The initiative taken by Hon. Mr. Dechène under the Marchand Government has therefore already borne precious fruit and Hon. S. N. Parent's Government intends to continue the same progressive policy, which, to sum up, is what the people of this province desire above all.

Fruit-Growing Stations.

Fruit-growing in this province fills an important place in our agricultural production, notwithstanding the difficult climatic conditions under which it is carried on. But to how many disappointments have our farmers been hitherto exposed in engaging in this most attractive and profitable branch of agricultural industry owing to the want of sure data in regard to the varieties to be chosen and the processes to be followed in each region?

In taking charge of his department, Hon. Mr. Dechène fully realized the necessity of definitely laying down the principles which should guide our horticulturists in the different parts of our province. He accordingly, in the spring of 1898, organized five experimental fruit-growing stations, which have since been increased to eight, where during five years the most careful tests will be made relative to the multiple operations of fruit-culture.

The creation of these experimental stations is destined

to rendered the most precious services to all hereafter who desire to provide themselves with an orchard embracing the different varieties suitable to each section of the province. We will henceforward know which varieties should be preferred at any given point, what system of protection should be adopted for the trees in winter, how the soil of the orchard should be fertilized to secure an abundant crop of fruit annually and what preventives should be employed for the protection of the trees and fruits against their many enemies.

The importance of these stations is most favorably appreciated not alone in this country, where those interested are naturally watching their operations with an attention, which can be readily understood, but even in Europe, where our fruits and especially our apples are much sought after on account of their attractive coloring and delicious flavor.

At a sitting of the International Congress of Arboriculture and Pomology held during the Paris Exhibition, the president of the Congress, in the course of some eulogistic remarks on the organization of these stations and on the experiments they were making, said :—"The result of these experiments will be precious not only to the people of that northern region, but also to the pomology of the world, as horticulturists will learn officially to what latitude certain species and varieties can grow and produce."

The relatively trifling cost of the maintenance of these stations will be amply compensated by the results which they cannot fail to give. Our fruits are being more and more appreciated in the European importing countries and our farmers should devote special attention to their culture. We deem it right to here reproduce a few of the remarks of a Paris correspondent on the fruit exhibits from the province of Quebec this year :

"The fruits of the province of Quebec at the Paris Exhibition are so fine and so well kept that a first prize has been awarded to that province.

"It is evident that the fruits of the province of Quebec contributed largely to the grand prize won by the Dominion of Canada. Many French and English horticulturists could hardly believe that Canada could produce such fine, choice fruit.

- 29 -

"Horticulturists from Rouen and its environs, who had heard their Canadian colleagues spoken of, visited the Canadian pavillion. All orchard owners, they nevertheless admitted that Canada surpassed them in the beauty of its fruits."

These few quotations further show the value of a branch of our national production, which has already become important, and enable us to thoroughly appreciate the timeliness of the creation of these fruit-growing stations, the lessons from which will impart to the fruit-growing industry in this province a fresh impetus full of promise for the welfare and success of the agricultural class.

Thousands of Miles of Roads Opened or Repaired

THE GOOD ROADS POLICY.

On becoming head of the Department of Agriculture, Hon. Mr. Dechene's greatest anxiety was to meet the aspirations of our rural population by assisting them to improve their roads.

He realized that the ennui and isolation of the farmer's life would be lessened if there were good roads, as these would tend to raise and facilitate the social relations of the farmers. The school, the church, the public meeting, the neighbor's house, all would be reached more easily. The effect of all this—increase of the value of real estate, more profits and more pleasures, would be to render the country attractive and no longer repulsive, to draw people from the town to the country instead of driving them from the country to the town. "How can we remedy overcrowding in the cities; how can we keep our young people on the farm?" These are questions demanding a prompt solution. In making the farm paying, in affording to energy and ambition sufficient vents on the farm, the solution of these problems will be found and one of the most important factors in that solution is to be looked for in good roads.

*Fraser
James
Chenier*

The demand for greater transportation facilities, for quicker transit, for better and shorter highways, arises on all sides, is general and pressing. To meet it, the railway companies are improving their lines and their rolling stock. The canals are being deepened and widened and vessels of greater carrying capacity are being built. But in the question of transportation, the great stumbling block is the condition of the country roads. That condition had to be improved and Hon. Mr. Dechene did not hesitate to come to the rescue of our faming population by means of grants to help the purchase of road machines.

To all counties desiring to acquire these machines, the Government offers assistance by paying half the purchase price.

This policy, whose inauguration held out such hopeful promises, was not slow to bear fruit and already it can be noted by Mr. Camirand's report that within three years an average of over 3,000 miles of road has been made yearly.

We are still only at the beginning of this great work, so to speak, and yet we can already note the progress made. Thanks to this new and progressive policy, there is reason to assert that in ten years our entire road system will be transformed for the greater benefit of the farmers.

The Conservatives themselves have not hesitated to render justice to and to congratulate the Quebec Government on its happy initiative.

At Sweetzburg, on the 6th January, 1898, His Honor Judge Lynch said :

"This meeting has been rendered specially important by the presence of one of the Federal Ministers, Hon. Mr. Fisher, of two of the Provincial Ministers, Hon. Messrs. Duffy and Déchène, and of several members of Parliament, both Federal and Local, who have all publicly given their adhesion to the good roads movement and, further, BY THE DECLARATION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE THAT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, IN ADDITION TO ITS ALREADY ANNOUNCED POLICY RESPECTING ROAD MACHINES, IS PREPARED TO PAY HALF THE COST INCURRED BY EVERY COUNTY FOR THE PURCHASE OF STONE-BREAKING MACHINES AND ALL THEIR ATTACHMENTS."

The County of Bedford Good Roads Association also passed the following resolution :

"That this Association desires to express its warm approval of the policy of the Provincial Government in aiding county municipalities to purchase stone-breakers, together with its firm hope that the county councils of this district will hasten to avail themselves of the generous offer of the Government."

We might cite over a hundred certificates to throw into still greater relief the happy effects of the policy inaugurated in 1897. The official reports bristle with them. We shall only give a few culled at hazard from page 301 of the report of 1899 :—

ARTHABASKA,

The ratepayers are well satisfied with the work done by this machine.

ARGENTEUIL.

St. Andrew's.—Since its purchase, our machine has gone three times over a good part of the length of road repaired.

BAGOT.

St. Simon.—The ratepayers of St. Simon were given to criticize when our machine was purchased, the fall of 1897 having been so dry. But in the spring of 1898, when they had an opportunity to realize the efficiency of the instrument, they declared themselves satisfied, at least the majority of them did so. This machine works very well.

St. André d'Acton.—This machine has given much satisfaction, and the council is well satisfied with its purchase.

BEAUCE.

East Broughton.—This machine is very useful to this parish. It has put an end to the old custom of working on the roads, each in his own way.

BEAUHARNOIS.

St. Louis de Gonzague.—This machine is of great help in keeping our roads in good condition.

BROME.

West Bolton.—The machine works well and to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Potton.—Our roads have been much improved by the use of road machines, which are regarded here as indispensable.

Eastman.—Nearly all the roads of this municipality have been repaired with this machine and most people here admit that it is a great improvement upon the old system.

CHAMPLAIN.

St. Stanislas.—The machine is almost indispensable in order to have good roads. In less than a month, last year, all our roads were repaired. To-day, they are finer than ever they have been.

COMPTON.

Bury.—The roads have been much improved. Roads have been rounded off which could not be so improved in any other way. This machine is used in spots where the plough could never pass. We are in great need of another machine to repair our 75 miles of road in the season.

St. Edwidge.—The machine gives good satisfaction. All the people here are satisfied with the result.

Emberton.—This machine is of great importance to the road service, saving a great deal of labor so that we can reduce the rates by one half and our roads are much finer than formerly.

IBERVILLE.

St. Alexandre.—The machine works very well and the municipality is well satisfied.

JOLIETTE.

St. Elizabeth.—The machine only worked last summer and this summer, but we propose to repair a good length more of road this fall. All the ratepayers are satisfied.

L'ASSOMPTION.

St. Paul L'Hermite.—In the autumn of 1897 and the spring of 1898, all the roads of the municipality were rounded off and the council proposes to annually compel the road contractor to run the machine once over these roads so as to keep them in good order.

Such are some of the certificates taken at hap-hazard from the works done in 1899 and which are more eloquent than any language. We might add thereto the testimony of Conservative newspapers like *La Presse* of Montreal, and even *Le Courrier du Canada*, but the facts speaks sufficiently of themselves and we know that all the intelligent population of our rural districts will render justice to the Hon. Commissioner of Agriculture and to the Liberal Government of Quebec for the carrying out of this policy inspired only by the national interest.

We cannot do better in closing than to report textually Mr. Camirand's conclusions. Said Mr. Camirand :

"In my tours through the province, I note a great change taking place in the improvement of the roads, although in certain localities nothing has been done yet.

"I venture to say that within three years upwards of 5000 to 7000 miles of road have been made and repaired with road machines. Information is sought from all sides, which proves that our fellow countrymen are aroused and that they now want good roads."

Mr. Camirand will not be taxed with partiality, as the whole world knows that Mr. Camirand is not a Liberal.

Colonization Department.

This department, created by a law passed by the Flynn Government, has charge of colonization, mines, surveys and cadastration. Hon. Mr. Turgeon, who presides over it, has managed it to the satisfaction of all and the advantage of the country.

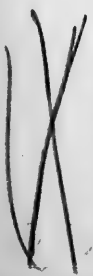
Roads and Bridges.—There was expended for these objects \$100,000 in 1898 and \$75,000 in 1899. The department has given attention as much as possible to these road works in the localities most favorable to the foundation of new settlements. Several large bridges were built.

Surveys.—The department only got the work of absolute necessity done. From \$47,472.34 in 1897, Hon. Mr. Turgeon reduced this expense to \$25,996.77 in 1898 and to \$37,743.00 in 1899, as shown by the departmental reports.

Cadastration.—The expenses of this service were \$21,663.89 in 1897, \$20,000 in 1898, and \$12,000 in 1899, which shows a marked diminution.

During the last three years, colonization has made marked progress in the Matapedia Valley and the Lake St. John region.

Public Works Department.

 We have already seen the saving effected by Hon. Mr. Duffy in the expenses of this department. Here is a fact, which will give an idea of the way in which he managed its business. The Rimouski Court House, which had cost \$31,551.68, was burnt down on the 12th October, 1897. The insurance on the building yielded \$16,791. Hon. Mr. Duffy rebuilt it for \$15,387.45, so that the province has a better building to-day, besides \$1,393.55 to the good.

All the rest was managed in the same way, which explains why the expenses of this department have been reduced to the extent of a quarter of a million a year.

Attorney-General's Department.

The administration of justice cost \$567,628.19 in 1897 under the Flynn Government and \$526,107.06 in 1900 under the Liberal Government, which shows a decreased of \$41,521.13 in favor of Hon. Mr. Archambault's management. This result will give an idea of the manner in which this department is conducted.

Public Instruction

The Government above all concentrated its efforts on the elementary schools, to which it increased the grants in order to diminish as much as possible the burthens on the taxpayers. It inaugurated the policy of free text books and other articles of that nature. It has already caused to be distributed among the schools geographical maps of the province of Quebec. The first text book has been printed and will be distributed shortly. These free gifts represent a large saving to parents and will before long reach \$100,000 a year.

A Master Stroke

In connection with public instruction, we may be permitted to call attention to a transaction marking Hon. Mr. Parent's debut as Premier.

After the sale of the site of the Chateau-Frontenac to the Canadian Pacific, the Laval Normal School was lodged in the old boarding-house of Laval University, which was

leased to the Government for \$6,000 a year. The building having been condemned as unwholesome, it became necessary to find another or to erect a new one.

The Mercier Government had formerly contemplated the construction of a spacious edifice and had bought for the purpose a tract of land on the Grande Allée, Quebec, but in the interval this ground had been in part devoted to other objects and, to carry out the project, it would have been necessary to dislodge the Athletic Association, which naturally protested.

The Government had cast its eye upon two or three other properties, without, however, coming to any conclusion with regard to them. The matter was referred to Hon. Mr. Parent a few days after he became Premier, and, in almost the time it takes to say it, the affair was settled by the purchase of the Chinic property belonging to Mr. Ross on the outskirts of St. John's suburb, for the sum of \$20,000 payable in twelve months, without interest on the first six months. This property had cost its original owners \$25,000, that is to say, that the Government got it for about a third of its value. The Seminary further agreed to a deduction of \$2,000 on the annual rental which the Government was bound to pay to it under its lease for the current year, so that in reality the purchase price of the Ross property is only \$5,000. In other words, the Normal School will be hereafter lodged in its own house for hardly \$1,000 more than it has hitherto had to pay annually for rental. The Government further remains in possession of its property on the Grand Allee, which is daily increasing in value.

From every standpoint, the bargain made was a splendid one.

This transaction gives an idea of the way in which the new Prime Minister administers the affairs of the province.

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